

FORM FOR APPLYING FOR A SUMMARY LICENCE REVIEW

[Insert name and address of relevant licensing authority and its reference number (optional)]

Darlington Borough Council

Town Hall

Feethams

Darlington

DL1 5 QT

Application for the review of a premises licence under section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003 (premises associated with serious crime or disorder)

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Before completing this form please read the guidance notes at the end of the form. If you are completing the form by hand please write legibly in block capitals. In all cases ensure that your answers are inside the boxes and written in black ink. **Use additional sheets if necessary.**

I Sgt 484 Caroline Dickenson [on behalf of] the chief officer of police for the Durham Constabulary police area apply for the review of a premises licence under section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003.

1. Premises details:

Postal address of premises, or if none or not known, ordnance survey map reference or description:

**THE GEORGE
107 BONDGATE
DARLINGTON
COUNTY DURHAM
DL3 7LB**

Post town: Darlington

Post code (if known): **DL3 7LB**

2. Premises licence details:

Name of premises licence holder (if known): George Maxwell SOWERBY

Number of premises licence holder (if known): DL16/00927/VARDPS

3. Certificate under section 53A(1)(b) of the Licensing Act 2003 [Please read guidance note 1]:

I confirm that a certificate has been given by a senior member of the police force for the police area above that in his opinion the above premises are associated with serious crime or disorder or both, and the certificate accompanies this application.

(Please tick the box to confirm)

4. Details of association of the above premises with serious crime, serious disorder or both:

[Please read guidance note 2]

On Saturday 12th February 2022 at 12:05hrs numerous 999 calls were received reporting a group of over 40 persons were fighting in the street. The people involved were described as being dressed in black, wearing face coverings / balaclava's.

Callers also reported seeing those involved with glass bottles and weapons. Callers reported some of these weapons as snooker balls and pool cues and others reported people being kicked in the head, punched and that some had blood on them.

This violent incident has taken place in Darlington Town Centre on a busy Saturday dinner time whilst families, elderly and others were out enjoying the day and going about their buisness.

Due to the calls that came in to the Police, officers were sent to the scene and an investigation is ongoing. Officers were aware that there was a Darlington Football match on and there was information to suggest 'risk supporters' were attending the game.

A risk supporter is -

- A person, known or not, who can be regarded as posing a possible risk to public order or antisocial behaviour, whether planned or spontaneous, at or in connection with a football event**

Within Durham Police we have a football liaison team and it is well documented that these risk supporters frequent THE GEORGE public house. Council CCTV supported this enquiry as it is clear that supporters come from THE GEORGE public house and walk up SKINNERGATE.

Members of the beat team requested CCTV from THE GEORGE public house for the date and time before, during and after the incident. However the premises only provided one camera for this whole day which covered the pool table. Officers have had to request further footage which was only received on the evening of 18th February 2022 so this has hindered the investigation and delayed arrests of the people responsible.

Once all the CCTV footage was obtained officers have viewed it and found the following -

- Group of risk football supporters seen to enter THE GEORGE at 11:03hrs**

without face masks / face coverings.

- The group drink alcohol within the premises and are the only large group within, they have no face coverings / balaclava's / hoods up,

- A member of the group is seen to remove 2 x pool balls from the pool table and place them into his coat pockets.

- The CCTV shows members of the group at a table which is in clear site of the bar. They remove face coverings / balaclavas from a bag and put them on.

- Bar maid is seen to walk through the group collecting glasses as the males seem to be preparing / limbering up for a fight.

- CCTV captures a male showing pool balls from his pockets to others in the group. The group appear to be animated

- Some of the group collect their empty glasses and walk towards the exit of the premises

- 12:06hrs 21 of the supporters leave the premises and walk up SKINNERGATE. Some wearing face coverings and some putting them on whilst they leave. Some of this group are seen to still have the glasses from the premises in their hands.

Darlington Borough Council CCTV captures the incident of violence including these persons that leave from THE GEORGE public house.

- The GEORGE CCTV then shows the same males returning to the premises between 12:14hrs and 12:24hrs

At no time do Police receive any calls from staff at THE GEORGE public house. The group were in the public house for a long period of time and staff would have had sufficient time to call / alert Police to what was occurring or being prepared in order to prevent large scale disorder and serious crimes being committed.

If staff had been fearful of this activity they could have contacted Police once the group had left however did not, and in fact welcomed the group back into the bar.

This crime has been recorded as a violent disorder of which on indictment can carry a term in prison of up to 5 years.

We as the Police service require information from persons to inform us of certain incidents so we can prevent certain crimes from occurring, this is an example of where if we had been informed of what was occurring in THE GEORGE public house we may have been able to prevent it rather than reacting to the scenes of violence afterwards.

Due to the serious nature of the incident the Police believe there is significant risk of future crime and disorder associated to this group and this premises. Other powers available to us are not sufficient to protecting the public and addressing the concerns we have around this premises.

The application of the review of a premises licence under section 53a of the licencing act 2003 is justified and we will be asking for immediate suspension of the license and removal of the designated premises supervisor.

Signature of applicant: Caroline Dickenson
Date: 21/02/2022
Capacity: Licensing Sgt

Contact details for matters concerning this application:
Address: **Durham County Council, Licensing Services**
St Johns Road North, Meadowfield,
DH7 8RS

Telephone number(s): 0191 3752351

Email: caroline.dickenson@durham.police.uk

Notes for guidance:

1. A certificate of the kind mentioned in the form must accompany the application in order for it to be valid under the terms of the Licensing Act 2003. The certificate must explicitly state the senior officer's opinion that the premises in question are associated with serious crime, serious disorder or both.

Serious crime is defined by reference to section 81 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. In summary, it means:

- conduct that amounts to one or more criminal offences for which a person who has attained the age of eighteen and has no previous convictions could reasonably be expected to be sentenced to imprisonment for a term of three years or more; or
- conduct that amounts to one or more criminal offences and involves the use of violence, results in substantial financial gain or is conduct by a large number of persons in pursuit of a common purpose.

Serious disorder is not defined in legislation, and so bears its ordinary English meaning.

2. Briefly describe the circumstances giving rise to the opinion that the above premises are associated with serious crime, serious disorder, or both.